Biography of Martine Jacobs (Pastel Artist)

Martine Jacobs (born 1956, Amsterdam) is a Dutch artist working primarily with pastels. She studied at the Wackers Academy (Ruudt Wackers Academie) in Amsterdam, where she developed her artistic skills and later specialized in pastel art. From the mid-1980s she worked as a visual artist, creating pastel drawings that combine craftsmanship, spirituality, and emotion.

In 1988, one of her pastels was acquired by the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. Between 1986 and 2002, she was a successful artist with international exhibitions in Barcelona, Berlin, Osaka, St. Petersburg, and participation in the Florence Biennale. Her works have been included in private and museum collections in the Netherlands and abroad.

Jacobs' oeuvre shows dreamlike landscapes, still lifes, portraits of women, children, and animals, often in soft pastel colors. Her drawings convey intimacy, tranquility, and romantic, nostalgic atmospheres. She also addressed social themes, such as her 2002 pastel series on 9/11, titled "Shared Grief," combining images of the Twin Towers with ruins of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to express universal human suffering.

Jacobs was one of the first Dutch female artists to launch a website in the 1990s, making her a digital pioneer. She later began using image banks on the internet, combining digital images into narrative compositions, which she then translated into pastel drawings or watercolors. She also created experimental work with wood panels, Japanese paper, and natural pigments, and embraced the computer as part of her creative process.

Her inspiration includes Buddhist and spiritual themes. A journey in 1978 to Sri Lanka and Nepal introduced her to Buddhism, which has since remained a major influence in her life and work. She created series of Buddha portraits and incorporated ideas of compassion and universal love into her art.

Jacobs lived and worked in several countries, including Portugal (where she had her first exhibition at the age of 20 in Óbidos), the United States (Carmel Valley, California, where she attended free art classes and exhibited), Morocco, and France (Toulouse, where she exhibited and began developing digital art concepts). Eventually, she settled for a period in the Algarve, Portugal, together with her husband Hans Jacobs, where she worked on new series such as "Elegy" and "Origami."

Her works have been exhibited in galleries such as Galerie Beeldend Gesproken (Amsterdam), and her pastel "Lily" was featured on the cover of the Tijdschrift voor Psychiatrie. She has also exhibited in institutions including the Hash Marihuana Museum in Amsterdam and the Hanf Museum in Berlin. Online, her works are available through platforms such as Saatchi Art, Artmajeur, and TRiCERA Art.

Throughout her career, Martine Jacobs' art has been described as refined, aesthetic, and rooted in tradition while created with modern means. Central themes in her work are love, compassion, and the search for beauty and meaning in life.